

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring environmental performance information and providing notification when the said performance information indicates performance reaching a predetermined level, the method comprising the steps of:

~~a program administrator~~ setting performance criteria to capture performance information at specific times by a predetermined schedule in a system;

~~the system~~ accepting a plurality of forms from a plurality of sites at specific times by ~~the~~ said predetermined schedule, each of ~~the~~ said forms including instructions, definitions and said performance information ~~as a function of~~ according to uniform data definitions;

~~the system~~ storing the said performance information in a database ~~as a function of~~ according to an area of interest of the said performance information;

~~the system~~ monitoring the said performance information for conformance with the said performance criteria ~~as it is~~ currently stored;

~~and~~ flagging the said performance information that does not conform with the said performance criteria so that a report can be generated, either automatically or manually, ~~as a function of~~ according to at least a portion of the ~~currently stored~~ said performance information currently stored;

~~the system~~ providing notification when the said performance information deviates from the said performance criteria; and

modifying said performance so that said performance conforms with said performance

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criteria.

wherein said modifying said performance is conducted immediately subsequent to said providing notification when said performance information deviates from said performance criteria so that said modifying of said performance occurs in real time.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring further ~~comprising~~ comprises monitoring ~~the currently stored~~ said performance information currently stored of a specific set of said plurality of sites for conformance with site-specific performance criteria.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ said specific set of sites is a single site and ~~the~~ said site-specific performance criteria comprises ~~the~~ said performance criteria for the said single site.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ said specific set of sites comprises multiple sites and ~~the~~ said site-specific performance criteria comprises the said performance criteria for the multiple sites.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ said set of specific sites comprises all said plurality of sites and the site-specific performance criteria comprises said the performance criteria for ~~the all~~ said plurality of sites.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the step of~~ providing notification further comprises sending notification via one or more of: e-mail; telephone; facsimile; pager; and, postal mail.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the step of~~ providing notification further comprises notifying ~~providing notification to~~ an environmental professional.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
modifying performance criteria;  
reviewing data in the database for nonconformance with the said modified performance criteria; and  
providing notification of nonconformance with the said modified performance criteria.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ areas of interest include one or more of: air; water; waste; energy; toxic chemical release inventory; containment; regulatory activity; cost and savings; facility general information; database meta information; health and safety information; and, materials use and conservation information.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the particular~~ database is an Air Programs Database and said ~~the~~ performance criteria is a high limit on emissions level.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the particular~~ database is a Waste Management Database and ~~said the~~ performance criteria is a low limit on recycling quantities and low percentage rates of nonhazardous and hazardous waste.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the particular~~ database is an Energy Database and ~~said the~~ performance criteria is a high limit on energy consumption.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the particular~~ database is a Cost and Savings Database and ~~said the~~ performance criteria is a low limit on cost to savings ratio to ensure that economic efficiency does not fall below a predetermined level.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating a summary report at a pre-established review period, ~~the wherein said report comprising comprises~~ a comparison of ~~said the~~ performance information to ~~said the pre-established~~ performance criteria in the system.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ assigning a specific access level to a user, ~~wherein~~ the access level further ~~comprising comprises~~: reader; author; and, editor; wherein ~~said the~~ reader is limited to viewing documents, ~~the~~ author can view ~~said~~ documents, create ~~said~~ documents, and modify ~~said~~ documents created by ~~said the~~ author, and the editor can read, create and modify all ~~said~~ documents.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ automatically creating an audit trail to the forms, ~~the wherein said~~ audit trail comprising comprises: a name of an author; a creation date; a name of a modifying user; and, a date of modification.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ creating queries to summarize data and produce useful management information.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said the creating step further comprises sorting by a specific chemical compound or composition to analyze activity, distribution, disposition, and decomposition to study a chemical's use rate and disposition across an operation.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring environmental performance information comprising:

a processor;

a data storage device operably connected to the processor, said the data storage device further comprising a number of individual storage units for storing a predetermined type of data;

a program executable by the processor to:

accept a plurality of forms from a plurality of sites at specific times by said the predetermined schedule, each of said the forms including instructions, definitions and performance information ~~as a function of~~ according to uniform data definitions;

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store said the performance information in a database ~~as a function of~~ according to an area of interest of said the performance information;

monitor said the performance information at said the specific times by said the predetermined schedule currently as it is stored for conformance against pre-established performance criteria ~~set by a program administrator~~; and

flag said the performance information that does not conform with said the performance criteria so that a report can be generated, either automatically or manually, ~~as a function of~~ at least a portion of ~~the currently stored~~ said performance information in the plurality of databases currently stored databases;

provide notification when said the performance information deviates from said the performance criteria.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said the program is further executable to monitor ~~the currently stored~~ said performance information currently stored of a specific set of sites for conformance with site-specific performance criteria.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ said specific set of sites comprises a single site and said the site-specific performance criteria comprises said the performance criteria for said the single site.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said specific the set of sites

comprises multiple sites and ~~said the~~ site-specific criteria comprises the performance criteria for ~~the multiple~~ said plurality of sites.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein ~~said the~~ set of said plurality of sites comprises all sites and ~~said the~~ site-specific criteria comprises said the performance criteria for the all said plurality of sites.

24. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ program is further executable to send notification via one or more of: e-mail; telephone; facsimile; pager; and, postal mail.

25. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ program is further executable to provide notification to an environmental professional.

26. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ program is further executable to:  
modify performance criteria;  
review data in ~~said the~~ database for nonconformance with ~~said the~~ modified performance criteria; and  
provide notification of nonconformance with the modified performance criteria.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said ~~the~~ areas of interest include one or more of: air; water; waste; energy; toxic chemical release inventory; containment; regulatory activity; cost and savings; facility general information; database meta information; health and safety information; and, materials use and conservation information.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said ~~the particular~~ database is an Air Programs Database and said ~~the~~ performance criteria is a high limit on emissions level.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said ~~the particular~~ database is a Waste Management Database and said ~~the~~ performance criteria is a low limit on recycling quantities and low percentage rates of nonhazardous and hazardous waste.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said ~~the particular~~ database is an Energy Database and ~~the~~ performance criteria is a high limit on energy consumption.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said ~~the particular~~ database is a Cost and Savings Database and the performance criteria is a low limit on cost to savings ratio to ensure that economic efficiency does not fall below a predetermined level.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising the step of generating a summary report at a pre-established review period, ~~the~~ wherein said, report ~~comprising~~ comprises

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a comparison of ~~the~~ said performance information to said ~~the~~ pre-established performance criteria ~~set by the program administrator in the system.~~

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising a number of specific access levels for a user, said ~~the~~ access levels further comprising: reader; author; and, editor; wherein said ~~the~~ reader is limited to viewing documents, ~~the~~ said author can view said documents, create said documents, and modify said documents created by ~~the~~ said author, and ~~the~~ said editor can read, create and modify all said documents.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising an automatically created audit trail for ~~the~~ said forms, ~~the~~ said audit trail comprising: a name of an author; a creation date; a name of a modifying user; and, a date of modification.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising queries to summarize data and produce useful management information.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 36, wherein said ~~the~~ queries further comprise sorting by a specific chemical compound or composition to analyze activity, distribution, disposition, and decomposition to study a chemical's use rate and disposition across an operation.

38. (Currently Amended) Computer executable process steps operative to control a computer, stored on a computer readable medium, for monitoring environmental performance information comprising the steps of:

accepting a plurality of forms from a plurality of sites at specific times by a predetermined schedule, each of the said forms including instructions, definitions and performance information according to ~~as a function of~~ uniform data definitions;

storing ~~the~~ said performance information in a database ~~as a function of~~ according to an area of interest of ~~the~~ said performance information;

monitoring ~~the~~ said performance information at ~~the~~ said specific times by ~~the~~ said predetermined schedule as it is currently stored for conformance against pre-established performance criteria ~~set by a program administrator and;~~

flagging ~~the~~ said performance information that does not conform with ~~the~~ said performance criteria so that a report can be generated, either automatically or manually, ~~as a function of~~ according to at least a portion of ~~the currently stored~~ said performance information in ~~the~~ said plurality of databases;

providing notification when the performance information deviates from the performance criteria.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38 further comprising monitoring the said currently stored performance information of a specific set of sites for conformance with site-specific performance criteria.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 39, wherein ~~the~~ said specific set of sites is a single site and ~~the~~ said site-specific performance criteria comprises the performance criteria for ~~the~~ said single site.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 39 wherein the set of sites comprises multiple sites and ~~the~~ said site-specific performance criteria comprises ~~the~~ said performance criteria for ~~the~~ said multiple sites.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 39, wherein ~~the~~ said specific set of sites comprises all of said plurality of sites and ~~the~~ said site-specific criteria comprises ~~the~~ said performance criteria for the all of said plurality of sites.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ step of said providing notification further comprises sending notification via one or more of: e-mail; telephone; facsimile; pager; and, postal mail.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ step of said providing notification further comprises providing notification to an environmental professional.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, further

comprising the steps of:

modifying performance criteria;

reviewing data in ~~the~~ said one or more databases for nonconformance with ~~the~~ said

modified performance criteria;

providing notification of nonconformance with ~~the~~ said modified performance criteria.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ said areas of interest include one or more of: air; water; waste; energy; toxic chemical release inventory; containment; regulatory activity; cost and savings; facility general information; database meta information; health and safety information; and, materials use and conservation information.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ particular said database is an Air Programs Database and ~~the~~ said performance criteria is a high limit on emissions level.

48. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ particular said database is a Waste Management Database and ~~the~~ said performance criteria is a low limit on recycling quantities and low percentage rates of nonhazardous and hazardous waste.

49. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~

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~~particular~~ said database is an Energy Database and ~~the~~ said performance criteria is a high limit on energy consumption.

50. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ said database is a Cost and Savings Database and the said performance criteria is a low limit on cost to savings ratio to ensure that economic efficiency does not fall below a predetermined level.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, further comprising the step of generating a summary report at a pre-established review period, ~~the~~ wherein said report comprising comprises a comparison of ~~the~~ said performance information to ~~the~~ said pre-established performance criteria ~~set by the program administrator.~~

52. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, further comprising ~~the step of~~ assigning a specific access level to a user, ~~the~~ said access level further comprising: reader; author; and, editor; wherein ~~the~~ said reader is limited to viewing documents, ~~the~~ said author can view said documents, create said documents, and modify said documents created by ~~the~~ said author, and ~~the~~ said editor can read, create and modify all said documents.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, further comprising ~~the step of~~ automatically creating an audit trail to ~~the~~ said forms, ~~the~~ wherein said

audit trail ~~comprising~~ comprises: a name of an author; a creation date; a name of a modifying user; and, a date of modification.

54. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, further comprising ~~the step of~~ creating queries to summarize data and produce useful management information.

55. (Currently Amended) The computer executable process steps of claim 38, wherein ~~the said creating step~~ further comprises sorting by a specific chemical ~~to study a chemical's use rate and disposition~~ compound or composition to analyze activity, distribution, disposition, and decomposition across an operation.